

ask you to focus on what President Bush focused on today. He said: I nominated 11 good people a year ago today, and only 3 of them have even had the courtesy of a hearing. Would you please go back to your colleagues and implore them to treat these people fairly? He said: It is not for me; it is for the American people. He made that point a couple times. And it is for justice and for the American people. I also think that it is going to say something about the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time controlled by the minority in morning business has expired.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, if we do not move on these nominations, it is going to cause a significant decline in the reputation of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS

Mr. DAYTON. I thank the Chair.

Madam President, I rise in morning business to discuss an amendment which Senator CRAIG from Idaho and I are going to offer when we resume consideration of the trade bill. I wish to take a few minutes in morning business now to talk about it.

It is an amendment that I believe will complement the intent of TPA. Others may view it differently. It is one Senator CRAIG and I developed out of our shared experiences working with and representing members of our respective States, Idaho and Minnesota, who have lost jobs, farms, and farm income because of trade policies.

I first had the opportunity to work with the Senator from Idaho when Minnesota loggers and small business owners running sawmills were being harmed seriously—some put out of business, some losing their jobs—as the result of imports of foreign lumber and wood products coming into this country and to our State. I found that Senator CRAIG had been working on these problems for years before I arrived.

I actually took his lead. He spearheaded a group of us working on the impact of sugar coming into this country on sugar beet growers in Minnesota and Idaho. I know he is someone who has a deep and abiding commitment to do what is right for the citizens of his State, as I hope I can demonstrate for the people of Minnesota.

Madam President, you probably had this experience in your State as well. The trade policies of this country which have been in effect over the last couple of decades from one Republican administration to a Democratic administration and now to a Republican administration have relatively consistently encouraged the expansion of trade, the expansion of exports upon which a lot of jobs in Minnesota depend and on which a lot of businesses in Minnesota, large and small, have successfully and profitably expanded markets across this country and the

world—grain traders, commodity traders, those who provide that transportation, those who finance the businesses engaged in all of this. There are a lot of winners in Minnesota, a lot of beneficiaries through jobs, through expanding businesses, through rising stock portfolios, who say, hey, more trade is better for us, who frankly cannot even imagine why I am torn on this subject.

I find in the presentations and the discussions about trade authority, there is very seldom a recognition, even an acknowledgment, of the thousands of men and women whose jobs, whose farms, whose businesses, have been lost. And lost is not even the right word; they have really been taken away from them because of the impact of these trade policies.

So recognizing that this legislation, the so-called trade promotion authority, is a high priority for the administration, that was passed by the House of Representatives, that, as the Senator from Oklahoma said earlier, the tradition of the Senate has been to support free trade in anticipation of the probability that final legislation will pass the Senate if we get to that point, I think this amendment is a crucial addition to standing beside and with those men and women in my State anyway, and I think elsewhere across the country, who are being harmed by these policies or who will be in the future.

This amendment says if an agreement comes back that has been negotiated by trade representatives, acting at the behest of the President but not elected by the people of this country—comes back with changes in the trade remedy laws, which change—in most cases weaken—these laws that have been passed by the Congress, signed into law by the President of the United States, for the purpose of protecting those who will be harmed by these trade agreements, by illegal dumping of products—it has certainly been devastating to northeastern Minnesota, to the steelworkers there and across this country—that before those laws and their provisions can be altered or weakened or negotiated away or used as bargaining chips to get some other purpose achieved, the Congress has the authority—it is not required but it has the option—to remove those sections of the bill and put the rest of the agreement through the fast track, so-called, the procedures that will have been enacted into law, but to reserve the prerogative to review these changes, these measures, that are going to affect the kind of protection, the kind of safety net, the kind of assistance that Americans think they can depend on, cannot be taken away, cannot be altered, except by more careful consideration by the Senate and Congress.

The fact that we have 26 Members of the Senate who are cosponsors and are in support of this legislation, 13 Republicans, 13 Democrats, men and women from all different parts of the country

with all different perspectives and philosophies, says to me they have had this same experience in their own States with their own constituents, that they too have recognized that these trade policies have very mixed results in their States, and particularly those who are not the beneficiaries, who are going to be the casualties of expanded trade, the increased imports which have been, I think, really tilting our trade policies out of balance in a way that is detrimental to this country.

Last year, the trade imbalance, the deficit in our trade, was \$436 billion. We owed other nations \$436 billion more from their imports than we received from our exports. In agriculture, well, there is still a positive trade balance, but that positive balance has been reduced. We have seen from NAFTA a flood of imports of food, of automobiles, of other manufactured goods, and our trade imbalance with Mexico has gone from being a slight positive in 1993 to a negative balance in the year 2000. Our trade balance with Canada has gone from being slightly in the negative to seriously in the negative in those 7 years.

Again, I have seen in Minnesota men and women, farmers, workers, business owners, who have lost all of that, lost their hopes, lost their livelihoods, lost their homes, lost their pensions, lost their health care as a result of this. To me, it would be unconscionable to hand that over to an unelected representative of any President, any administration—previous administration, this administration, a future administration—and allow that situation to develop where that agreement would come back and we would be told, take it or leave it, up or down; either make that decision that is going to benefit people but disregard those who are going to be most harmed.

I see the Senator from Nevada has returned, hopefully with some illumination for us. We have taken this opportunity to talk about the amendment.

Mr. REID. If the Senator will yield, the majority leader is on his way.

Mr. DAYTON. I will yield even more so when the majority leader arrives.

I thank the Senator from Idaho for his work on this. I think he has heard more about it from other parties than I have.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, we are in morning business, are we not?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. CRAIG. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRADE MUST BE BALANCED AND FAIR

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, I am pleased my colleague from Minnesota,